

REMARKS

FORMAL MATTERS:

Claims 25-30, 32-33, 35-36, 39-44, and 47-70 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 25-30, 31-33, 35-36, and 39-46 have been objected to.

Claims 31, 37, and 38 have been canceled. Claims 25-30, 32-33, 35-36, 39-44 are amended to correct typographical and dependency errors.

New Claims 47-70 have been added. Support for new Claims 47-70 is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed, for example:

Claim	Support
47	Claims 25, 26, and 41
48	Claims 25, 26, and 42
49	Claim 30
50	Claim 32
51	Claim 39
52	Claim 33
53	Claim 40
54	Claim 41
55	Claim 43
56	Claim 42
57	Claim 44
58	Claim 25
59	Claim 26
60	Claim 27
61	Claim 28
62	Claim 29
63	Claim 30
64	Claim 45
65	Claim 46

Claim	Support
66	Claim 36
67	Claim 35
68	Claim 30
69	Claim 45
70	Claim 46

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

IDS Originally Filed May 20, 2003

Applicants hereby resubmit with this communication the IDS originally filed on May 20, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement, originally filed on May 20, 2003, and indicate such consideration by initialing the PTO from SB/08A and returning a copy of the initialed form with the next Action.

New IDS Filed Herewith

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references cited in the new Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed with this communication, and indicate such consideration by initialing the PTO form SB/08A and returning a copy of the initialed form with the Action. The Applicants note that the references cited in the IDS consist of the references cited in the document entitled "Art of Interest" cited in the Office Action dated October 21, 2003.

NEW CLAIMS 47-57

New Claims 47-57 have been added, which new claims find support in the claims as originally filed as noted above. Accordingly, new Claims 47-57 do not present new matter that would require further examination. New Claims 47-57 incorporate the amendments made to Claims 30, 32, 33, 39-44 in order to overcome objections set out in the Office Action dated June 28, 2004. As such, new Claims 47-57 should be free of similar objections.

NEW CLAIMS 58-70

Claim 25 has been amended to remove the “or 4-pregnene-21-hydroxy” class of compounds and new Claims 58-70 have been added and are directed to 4-pregnene-21-hydroxy containing compounds. Accordingly, new Claims 58-70 do not present new matter that would require further examination. Moreover, new Claims 58-70 also incorporate the amendments made to Claims 25-30, 32, 33, 35, 36, and 39-44 in order to overcome objections set out in the Office Action dated June 28, 2004. As such, new Claims 58-70 should be free of similar objections.

REJECTION OF OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 21, 2003

The Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner’s indication that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action dated October 21, 2003 has been withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Item A (Office Action page 2)

Claims 25-46 were objected to for use of the term “conjugant”. In view of the amendments to the claims, which amendments replace the term “conjugant” with the term “conjugate”, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item B (Office Action page 2)

Claims 25-46 were objected to for reasons relating to syntax because the phrase “which conjugate group” was unclear. In view of the amendments to the claims, which amendments replace the phrase “which conjugate group” with the phrase “and wherein said conjugate group”, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item C (Office Action page 2)

Claims 28-46 were objected to for reasons relating to syntax. Claims 28, 29, 39, 40, 43, 44, and 46 have been amended to recite “through an epsilon amino group of a lysine residue”. Accordingly, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item D (Office Action page 2)

Claims 32 and 33 were objected to because it allegedly appeared that the claims should depend from claim 31. Claim 31 has been canceled and claims 32 and 33 have been amended to depend from 30. In view of the amendments to the claims, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item E (Office Action page 3)

Claim 35 was objected to for typographical reasons because the term “NGF” was repeated twice. In view of the amendments to the claim where the second “NGF” was removed, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item F (Office Action page 3)

Claim 36 was objected to for reasons relating dependency. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from Claim 25. Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Item G (Office Action page 3)

Claim 36 was objected to for reasons relating to syntax. Claim 36 has been amended to replace the phrase “capable of binding” with the phrase “which binds”. Accordingly, this objection may be withdrawn.

Item H (Office Action page 3)

Claims 39 and 40 were objected to for reasons relating dependency. Claim 39 has been amended to depend from Claim 32, and Claim 40 has been amended to depend from Claim 33. Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Item I (Office Action page 3)

Claims 41 and 42 were objected to for reasons relating dependency. Claims 41 and 42 have been amended to recite “the corticosteroid”. Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Item J (Office Action page 3)

Claim 43 was objected to for reasons relating to dependency. Claim 43 has been amended to depend from Claim 41. Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Item K (Office Action page 3)

Claim 44 was objected to for reasons relating to dependency. Claim 44 has been amended to depend from Claim 42. Accordingly, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Item L (Office Action page 3)

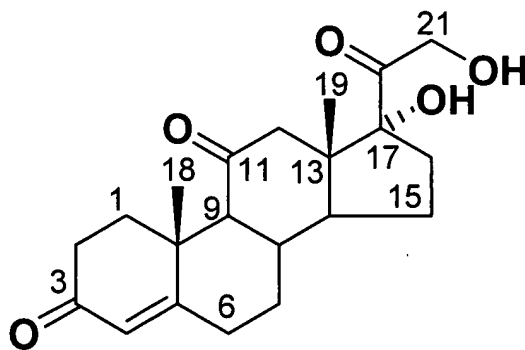
Claim 45 was objected to for reasons relating to dependency. Claim 45 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

Item M (Office Action page 3)

Claim 46 was objected to for reasons relating to dependency. Claim 46 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER §112, ¶2

Claim 31 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because there allegedly is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of “cortisone” recited in the original claim 25. The Office Action notes that it is unclear if cortisone meets the structural requirements recited in the original claim 25. Claim 31 has been canceled rendering this rejection moot. Claim 58 has been added to split the original claim 25 into separate classes of 1,4-pregnadiene-21-hydroxy steroids (claim 25) and 4-pregnene-21-hydroxy steroids (claim 58). With respect to new claim 64, which depends from new claim 58 and recites cortisone, the applicants note that the structure of Cortisone (17,21-dihydroxypregn-4-ene-3,11,20-trione) is as follows:



Accordingly, the structure of cortisone, which well known in the art, meets the structural requirements recited in original claim 25 and in new claim 58, the latter of which recites the 4-pregnene-21-hydroxy steroid.

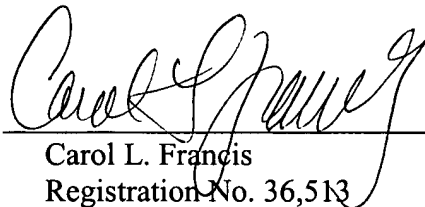
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number ASIL-002CIP.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Sept 28, 2004

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